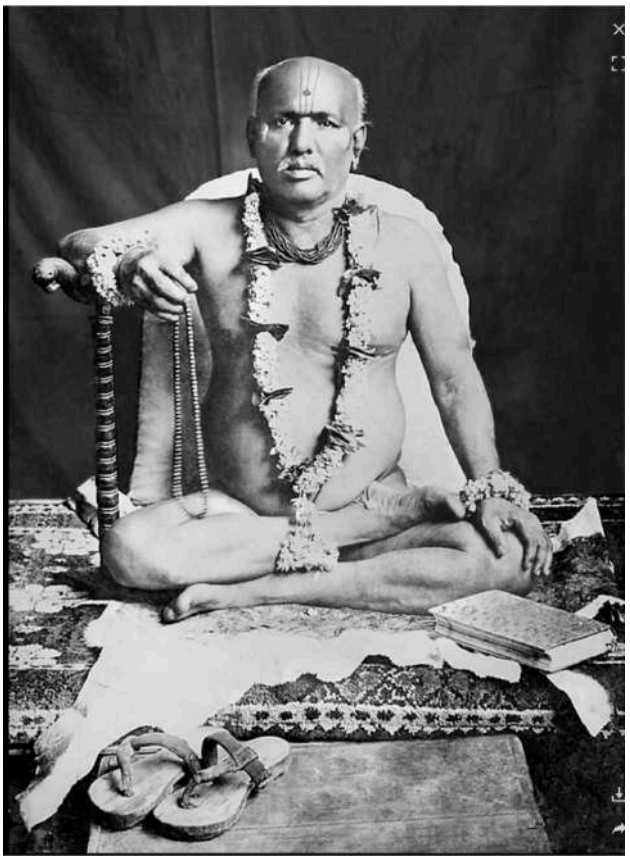
Sri Brahmachaitanya Maharaj Gondavalekar



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Brahmachaitanya (also popularly known as **Gondavalekar Maharaj**) pronunciation (19 February 1845[1] – 22 December 1913) was an Indian Hindu saint and spiritual master. He was a devotee of the Hindu deity Rama, and signed his name as "*Brahmachaitanya Ramdasi*". He was a disciple of Tukamai.[2] He advocated for *japa* meditation through recitation of the *Trayodaśakṣarī mantra* (Sanskrit: त्रयोदशाक्षरी मंत्र, lit. '13-alphabet *mantra* in Devanagari script'). He promulgated *mantra* recitation as an effective means to attain spiritual progress and *moksha* (spiritual liberation).[1]

Biography

Early life

He was born on 19 February 1845 as Ganpati Ghugardare.[1] He was born into a Deshastha Brahmin family to Raoji and Gitabai Ghugardare. His place of birth was Gondavale Budruk, a small town in present-day Satara District, Maharashtra, India. His parents were devotees of Vitthala, a Hindu deity. Lingopant, his grandfather, held the title of *Kulkarni* or rural record-keeper of Gondavale during the Maratha regime. Kulkarni was later adopted as the family name.[1]

He memorized the Hindu philosophical scripture, *Bhagavad Gita* at a very early age. He is believed to have attained enlightenment at a young age.[2]

Initiation

At the age of twelve, Ganpati left home in search of enlightenment. He travelled extensively, and eventually arrived at Yehalegaon, a village near present-day Nanded. There, he met Tukamai, a saint revered to be a living synthesis of the three distinct paths to self-realization: *Jnana Yoga*, *Bhakti Yoga*, and *Karma Yoga*. He stayed under the tutelage of Tukamai for nine months. He would obediently follow the latter's instructions during this time. On one occasion of Ram Navami, Tukamai initiated Ganpati with the *mantra* "*Śrī Rāma Jaya Rāma Jaya Jaya Rāma* (Sanskrit: श्री राम जय राम जय जय राम)",[1] and bestowed upon the latter the title of "*Brahmachaitanya*."

Over the next few years, Brahmachaitanya travelled across the Indian subcontinent. He went to various regions and towns such as the Himalayas, Ujjain, Ayodhya, Kashi, Calcutta, Indore and Nasik. During March 1866, he returned back to Gondavale and adopted a householder lifestyle.[1] His first wife, Saraswati, and their son died shortly afterward. Later, he married a daughter of the *Deshpande* or district record-keeper of Atpadi. His second wife was blind since birth. She later came to be known as Aaisaheb. He also embarked on a pilgrimage along with his mother, Gitabai, to Kashi and Ayodhya. Gitabai probably died in Ayodhya.

Return to Gondavale and death

During later years, Brahmachaitanya continued to expound spiritual methods revolving around devotion to the deity Rama. He also had a Rama temple built as an extension to his residence.[1]

Temple of Rama at Gondavale

With time, the number of his disciples and followers soared. To cater to these increasing numbers, he arranged for the construction of Rama, Dattatreya, and Shani temples along

with accommodation facilities at Gondavale. He also had Rama temples built in other rural regions of present-day Maharashtra.

He died on 22 December 1913, at Gondavale.[2][3]

Philosophy

He was a proponent of Bhakti Yoga. His teachings were aligned to those of Samarth Ramdas, his spiritual predecessor. The *Rama-nama mantra*, originally attributed to Ramdas, was promoted by Brahmachaitanya as a means of spiritual evolution. The *mantra* was central to his teachings.[4] According to S. G. Tulpule, Brahmachaitanya, like earlier Vaishanavite saints such as Mirabai, Ramdas, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Tulsidas, was a well-known preacher and practitioner of *mantra* recitation.[5]

He frequently used *pravachan* or spiritual discourses and *bhajan* or devotional hymns to encourage people along the path of devotion. He endorsed cow protection and food donation. He is an important 19th-century religious figure behind the revival of Vedic ritualism in the Indian state of Maharashtra.[4]

Teachings

He advised[1] his adherents to rigorously follow spiritual practices to attain self-realization. According to him, there are two proven ways to *moksha* or liberation for people active in materialistic pursuits. These are *satsangati* (Sanskrit: सत्संगती) or company of saints and *naam* (Sanskrit: नाम) or name of deity. Most of his teachings emphasized on the recitation of *naam japa*. He advocated for round-the-clock remembrance of the divine through *naam japa* as a means to happiness, contentment and peace.

His teachings are summarized in his *subodh*[6] (Sanskrit: सुबोध) or set of clear instructions.

Teachings stated in the *subodh* are listed as follows:[6]

- Keep chanting the deity's name and communicate the significance of chanting to everyone you meet.
- *Naam* alone is the ultimate truth.
- *Naam* is the means and the end.
- Stay involved in *mantra* chanting even when active in worldly pursuits.
- Be happy and stay away from laziness, fear and hate.
- Always be mindful of the divine presence in life.
- Be polite and nice to people and stay fully devoted to Rama.
- Maintain purity in thought and action and refrain from hypocrisy.
- Consider Rama as your friend, guide and master and surrender to him wholeheartedly.
- Give your 100% to everything you do and leave the results of your effort to Rama, thereby surrendering your ego entirely.
- Control your desires and be righteous in your behavior.
- Rama is the giver of happiness, and one should consider performing worldly duties as a way to serve Him.
- Sing and chant His name and always be content and at peace even if you lose all your worldly belongings.

- Pride is the greatest enemy of a seeker, be alert and do not give in to your ego.
- Rama resides in our hearts. He is the epitome of love and yearns for love from all his devotees.

His daily discourses have been compiled into a book called *Pravachane*.[7]

Noted disciples and followers

Keshav Belsare

Keshav Belsare, also affectionately known as "Baba" (father), was born into a middle-class family in Hyderabad on 8 February 1909. He had learnt texts such as the *Bhagavad Gita*, *Dasbodh* and *Dnyaneshwari*, at an early age. He is claimed to have memorized all of the 700 *shlokas* of the *Bhagavad Gita* within a single week. He started out as a teacher of English at Balmohan Vidyalaya in Dadar, and later became a professor of philosophy at Siddhartha College in Mumbai. His lectures were immensely popular in college, and students from multiple disciplines would enrol for his classes. He was known to possess extraordinary clarity and an ability to teach complex subjects in an easy-to-understand manner. He was initiated in 1931. Over time, he became a prominent propagator of Brahmachaitanya's teachings. He actively engaged in promoting these teachings for more than 60 years. He would often conduct discourses on topics ranging from meditation to literary works such as *Dnyaneshwari* and *Dasbodh*. He authored more than 50 books in Marathi. His notable works include the biography of Brahmachaitanya, *Upanishdacha Abhyas* and *Bhavarthgatha*.[8]

Dattatreya Bendre

Dattatreya Bendre (31 January 1896 – 26 October 1981) was a Kannada poet and recipient of the Jnanpith Award. He revered Brahmachaitanya and believed the latter to have bestowed upon him "the gift of poetry".[9]

Worship

Entrance to the *Samadhi Mandir* dedicated to Brahmachaitanya at Gondavle

Temples

Samadhi Mandir, Gondavle

Brahmachaitanya and his adherents built and consecrated many temples around India. There are temples dedicated to him in Maharashtra, as well as in Bangalore (Srinivasanagar), and Hebbali in Dharwad District. *Ram-naam japa* rituals are held on a daily basis at these temples.

The temples are listed as follows:

	Temple	Location	Year of Construction
1	Dhakate Rama Mandir	Gondavale	1895
2	Datta Mandira, Aatapaadi	Aatapaadi	1892
3	Thorale Rama Mandir[1]	Gondavale	1892
4	Vitthala Mandir	Gondavale	
5	Rama Mandir	Beladadhi	1896
6	Ananda Rama Mandir	Jalna, Anandavadi	1896

7	Tilwankar Rama Mandir	Varanasi	1897/98
8	Pattabhi Rama Mandir	Harda	1900
9	Rajaadhiraja Rama Mandir	Mandave	1901
10	Rama Mandir	Giravi	1901
11	Rama Mandir	Sorati, Ujjain	1901
12	Rama Mandir	Yavagal	1901
13	Datta Mandira	Yavagal	1901
14	Rama Mandir	Kagavada	1902
15	Rama Mandir	Gomewadi	1903
16	Rama Mandir	Mhasoorne	1903
17	Rama Mandir	Vita	1903
18	Rama Mandir	Manjarde	1905/6
19	Bhadagavkar Rama Mandir	Pandharpur	1908
20	Janaki Jeevana Rama Mandir	Morgiri	1908
21	Datta Mandira	Satara	1908
22	Vitho Anna Daphthardar Rama Murthi	Patna	1909
23	Javalgekar Rama Mandir	Solapur	1909
24	chidambara nayakara Rama Mandira	Hubli	1909
25	Kurthakoti Rama Mandir	Kurthakoti	1909
26	Atapadi Rama Mandir	Atapadi	1909

27	Vitthala Mandir	Khathavala	1909
28	Vitthala Mandir	Uksaan	1909
29	Vitthala Mandir	Naragunda	1909
30	Venkatesha Mandir	Venkatapura	1909
31	Venugopala Mandir	Bidarahall	1909
32	Hanuman Mandir	Kaagavaada	1909
33	Rama Mandir	Kannhad	1911
34	Datta Mandira	Gondavale	1911
35	Shani Mandir	Gondavale	1911
36	Kuravali Rama Mandir.	Siddeshwara	1913
37	Dahiwadi Rama Mandir	Dahiwadi, Maharashtra	1912
38	Haradasi Rama Mandir	Sangli	1912/13
39	Kukkadavada Rama Mandir	Chintamani, Karnataka	1912/13
40	Likthe Rama Mandir	Pune	1914
41	Kherdi Rama Mandir	Chiplun, Maharashtra	1914
42	Ashwathapur Rama Mandir	Badagumijaru, Karnataka	1915
43	Emmikeri Rama Mandir	Dharwad	1915/17
44	Line Bazar Rama Mandir	Dharwad	1915/17
45	Sri Vishwanatha Seetha Rama chandra Mandira	Gajendraghada	1916
46	Kanchisamudram Rama Mandir	Kanchisamudram, Andhra Pradesh	1923
47	Sri Shendurani Ghat Rama Mandir		1923

48	Sri Shendurani Ghat Rama Mandir	Kurundavada	1929
49	Rama Mandir	Viduraashwatha	1930
50	Rama Mandira	Indore	1931
51	Brahmachaithanya Rama Mandira	Mandaleshwara	1932
52	Rama Mandira	Gowdigalli, Hubbali	1945
53	Sri Brahmachaithanya sri Rama Mandira	Chintamani, Karnataka	1949
54	Rama Mandira	Kudoor, Karnataka	1969
55	Shri Brahmachaithanya Ashrama & Rama Mandira	Parvathi Payaatha	1976
56	Rama Mandira	Hadonahalli	1983
57	Sri Rama Mandira	Samartha Kuti Bedi, Udavah	1994
58	Rama Mandira	Vudagyav, Pune	1995
59	Rama Mandira	Maardi	1997
60	Maharaja's Paduka Mandirs		
61	Maharaja's Paduka Mandirs	Kolhapur	1920
62	Rendaalkar Paduka Mandir	Kolhapur	1920
63	Brahmachaithanya Mutt	Malad	1929

64	Brahmachaithanya Mutt & Hanuman Mandir	Mandsaur	1947
65	Sri Brahmachaithanya Mandir	Bangalore	1972
66	Paaduka Mandir	Londa	1982
67	Paaduka Mandir	Hebballi	1984
68	Paaduka Mandir	Halenagara, Bhadravathi	1988
69	Gondavale Dhaam	Indore 70 Sree Vittala Chaithanya Mandira, Chamundipuram, Mysuru, Karnataka	

Ref:

- *Sri Brahmachaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj* – biography by K.V. Belsare[8]

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Ref: Google Gemini

Shri Brahmachaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj

Shri Brahmachaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj was a luminous saint of the 19th century who revitalized the path of *Bhakti* (devotion) through the simple yet profound practice of *Namasmarana* (chanting the Divine Name).

Here is the detailed information regarding his life and legacy:

Greatness, Birth, and Childhood

- **Greatness:** Maharaj is revered as an incarnation of devotion, often compared to Samarth Ramdas Swami for his emphasis on *Rama-Nama*. He bridged the gap between worldly duties and spiritual liberation.

- **Birth:** He was born on **February 19, 1845** (Magh Shuddh Dwadashi), in the village of **Gondavale Budruk**, Satara District, Maharashtra.
- **Parents:** His father was **Raoji** and his mother was **Gitabai Ghugardare**. He was born into a pious Deshastha Brahmin family that had a tradition of *Pandharpur Vari* for seven generations.
- **Childhood:** Named **Ganpati** (fondly called Ganu), he showed spiritual inclinations from a very young age. Even at six, he would meditate by the river at midnight. He possessed a photographic memory and mastered his formal education quickly.

Young Age and Spiritual Inclinations

- **Search for a Guru:** Driven by an intense desire for God-realization, he first ran away from home at age nine but was brought back. At age twelve, he left home permanently with only a loincloth to find a Spiritual Master.
- **His Guru:** After traveling extensively and meeting many great saints (including Shri Swami Samarth and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa), he reached **Yehelgaon** near Nanded. There, he met **Shri Tukamai**, who tested his devotion rigorously. At age fourteen, Tukamai initiated him and gave him the name **Brahmachaitanya**.
- **Sadhana and Travels:** Following his Guru's orders, he spent two years in solitude and meditation in the **Naimisharanya** forest and traveled to various holy places across India before returning home.

Marriage and Family Life

- **Householder Saint:** Maharaj lived as a *Grihastha* (householder) as per his Guru's instructions to show that spirituality is accessible to everyone. He married twice; his first wife died young, and his second wife, **Aaisaheb**, was blind but deeply spiritual. He treated his family life as a service to the Divine.

Teachings and Philosophy

- **Namasmarana:** His core teaching was that chanting God's name (*Nama*) is the easiest and most effective way to reach the Divine in this age. He advocated for the **13-letter mantra**: *Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram*.
- **Contentment:** He emphasized being satisfied with whatever God provides while maintaining a constant inner connection with the Name.
- ***Discourses (Pravachane): His daily discourses were compiled into the famous* **"Gondavalekar Maharaj Pravachane,"** which provide practical guidance for a balanced life.

The Ashram and Daily Routine

- **The Ashram:** The **Shri Chaitanya Upasana Trust** in Gondavale remains a vibrant spiritual center. It is unique because everything—from accommodation to meals—is provided free of charge to devotees.
- **Daily Routine:**
    - **3:00 AM:** The day begins with *Kakad Aarti*.
    - **Morning:** Rituals include *Abhishek*, *Bhajans*, and *Pravachans*.
    - **Annadaan:** Huge emphasis is placed on feeding everyone; Maharaj believed that "Feeding the hungry is feeding Rama."
    - **Evening:** *Palkhi* procession and *Shejarti* (final prayer) conclude the day.

Miracles and Legacy

- **The Crying Statue:** It is a famous tradition that when Maharaj planned to leave for Naimisharanya permanently, the idol of **Lord Rama** in the Gondavale temple appeared to shed tears, signaling that the Divine did not wish him to leave his devotees.
- **Miracles:** While he performed many miracles (healing the sick, providing food during famines), he always attributed them to the power of *Nama* and the will of Rama, never taking credit himself.
- **Main Disciples:** His prominent disciples included **Brahmachaitanya Prahlad Maharaj**, **Dr. Kurtakoti**, and **Beli Ram**.
- **Final Days and Samadhi:** He took **Mahasamadhi** on **December 22, 1913**, in Gondavale. His Samadhi shrine is located in a spot that was originally a cowshed, as per his humble wish to stay among the cows he loved.

Present State

Today, the Gondavale Ashram is a model of organized devotion and selfless service. It maintains a peaceful atmosphere where thousands of devotees gather to chant "Shri Ram" in unison, carrying forward Maharaj's legacy of simplicity, love, and constant remembrance of the Divine.

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Shri Brahmachaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj

The Saint of Gondavale — A Luminous Sun of the Bhakti Tradition

GREATNESS OF MAHARAJ

Shri Brahmachaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj was an Indian Hindu saint and spiritual master — a devotee of Lord Rama, a proponent of Bhakti Yoga, and a tireless servant of the common man's spiritual upliftment. (Wikipedia) According to the scholar S. G. Tulpule, Gondavalekar Maharaj, like Mirabai, Ramdas, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Tulsidas, was a great practitioner and preacher of the divine name — regarded by many as an incarnation of God. (Bharatpedia) He is considered one of the most accessible and universally beloved saints of 19th-century Maharashtra, having shown that spiritual liberation is not the exclusive domain of monks or ascetics, but is fully attainable within the life of a householder through sincere devotion and unceasing Naam Japa.

📍 LOCATION

Gondavale Budruk is situated in Taluka Maan, District Satara, Maharashtra — approximately 40 miles (64 km) from Satara on the Satara–Pandharpur Road. (Blogger) State Transport bus services are available daily from Pune (about 153 km) and Mumbai (about 320 km). Those coming by private vehicle from Pune via National Highway 4 can take a turn from Shirval towards Lonand and proceed via Lonand–Faltan–Dahivadi. (Shrigondavalekarmaharaj)

👨‍👩‍👦 HIS PARENTS

Shri Brahmachaitanya Maharaj was born on 19 February 1845 to Raoji (also called Ravji) and Gitabai Ghugardare (Kulkarni), a Deshastha Brahmin couple from Gondavale Budruk, Satara district. His grandfather Lingopant held the title of Kulkarni (rural record-keeper) of Gondavale during the Maratha Empire regime, which later also became the family name. (HandWiki) His father, Ravji Ghugardhare, was Kulkarni of the village. His parents were devoted worshippers of Lord Vitthala, a Hindu deity considered an incarnation of Lord Krishna. (Bharatpedia)

👶 HIS BIRTH

Shri Maharaj was born on Maagha Shuddha Dwadashi of Shake 1766 (year 1845) in Gondavale Budruk. (Blogger) He was of medium stature with a smooth, fair complexion, a broad face, a broad forehead, a straight nose, clear white teeth, and sparkling eyes. He had a peculiar luster on His face, and his simple, sweet smile

impressed everybody. (Quora) His given name was Ganapati — affectionately called Ganu by his parents and Ganubuva by the townspeople.

🧒 CHILDHOOD

Shri Maharaj's first name was Ganapati; His grandparents called Him by that name while His parents called Him "Ganu." Shri Maharaj was an expert in running and in climbing trees. He was skilled in Surya Namaskar and other gymnastic exercises. Shri Maharaj had great love for children — He freely mixed and played with them. (Quora) Even in childhood, he displayed an unusual detachment from worldly pleasures and a magnetic inner pull towards God.

🌱 YOUNG AGE & SPIRITUAL INCLINATION

Ganpati left home in spiritual pursuit at an early age of nine. After knowing his whereabouts, his father tracked him down and brought him back from Kolhapur. He entered into his first marriage at the age of eleven. (Bharatpedia) He is believed to have visited many spiritual masters and contemporary saints of the time, including Shri Manik Prabhu of Manik Nagar, Shri Swami Samarth of Akkalkot, and Shri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa. (Google Play) Even as a youth, his entire being yearned not for worldly enjoyments but for the direct experience of God.

🕉️ HIS GURU — SHRI TUKAMAI

At the age of twelve in 1857, compelled by an intense inner calling, Brahmachaitanya — then known as Ganapati — left his home in Gondavale to search for a guru, having previously attempted to depart at age eight. After four years of wandering through regions including Mount Abu, he arrived in Yehalegaon near Nanded, Maharashtra, where at the age of sixteen he met his Guru, Shri Tukaram Chaitanya, commonly known as Tukamai — a revered realized saint renowned for his spiritual depth and rigorous testing of disciples. Tukamai, recognizing the young seeker's sincerity and mastery over base passions, accepted him as a disciple, and Ganapati served him devotedly for nine months, fully surrendering to his guidance. (Grokipedia)

On one auspicious day of Ram Navami, Shri Tukamai initiated Shri Maharaj with Ram Naam and placed his right hand on his head. The Master immediately lost himself into an intensely deep Samadhi. (Shrigondavalekarmaharaj) On this sacred occasion, Tukamai bestowed upon him the name "Brahmachaitanya" and directed him to work for the spiritual upliftment of ordinary people.

🌏 TRAVELS & REVEALS (SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES)

Over the next few years, Brahmachaitanya travelled across the Indian subcontinent — to various regions and towns such as the Himalayas, Ujjain, Ayodhya, Kashi, Calcutta, Indore and Nasik. (Wikipedia) His spiritual journey included nine years of

pilgrimage across India, including two years of solitude in the Himalayas, before he returned to Gondavale. (Grokipedia) During these w“anderings, he deepened his sadhana, experienced profound states of divine consciousness, and is said to have had direct visions and communications with Lord Rama.

👨‍👩‍👧 MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

During March 1866, Brahmachaitanya returned to Gondavale and accepted gṛhasthi (a householder's life). His first wife Saraswati and his son passed away prematurely, and he remarried a daughter of the Deshpande (district record-keeper) of Atpadi. (HandWiki) After the loss of his first wife and son, he remarried Aaisaheb, a blind woman of deep faith. Renouncing all possessions, he journeyed with his mother, Gitabai, on a pilgrimage to Varanasi and Ayodhya, where she passed away. (Shreerajyog)

Maharaj's own householder life became a living teaching — demonstrating to thousands that deep devotion, Naam Japa and God-realization are fully compatible with marriage and family duties.

🙏 SADHANA

The core of Maharaj's personal sadhana was ceaseless Naam Japa — the constant repetition of the mantra "Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram." Untiringly till he breathed last, he preached surrender to the Divine Will through Japam of the Divine Name. He attempted to awaken in people an urge to seek God. (Shrigondavalekarmaharaj) Shri Maharaj introduced the practice of loudly chanting "Jay Jay Shriram" for some time before taking food and while doing any work — cooking food, fetching water, sifting corn, sweeping, washing floors, even while working in the field or digging a well. Seeing everyone chanting thus, Shri Shantashram Swami felt that the atmosphere of Ayodhya was recreated at Gondavale. (Internet Archive)

📜 TEACHINGS

Maharaj's teachings were at once simple and profound — addressed to the ordinary householder, not to the forest recluse.

The Central Teaching — Naam Japa:

Brahmachaitanya spent his lifetime teaching the importance of Naam Japa. He advocated the continued remembrance of God through Naam Japa as a means to happiness, contentment and peace. (HandWiki)

The Subodh (Core Instructions):

Brahmachaitanya's teachings are summarized in his Subodh (sound advice), recited in Gondavale and by his followers across the world:

- Chant the name of God and share the importance of chanting with everyone you meet.
- Naam alone is the ultimate truth. Naam is the means and the end.
- Be soaked in blissful chanting while enjoying worldly pleasures.
- Be happy and stay away from laziness, fear, and hate.
- Always be mindful of the divine presence in life.
- Be polite and nice to people and perform bhakti with complete devotion.
- Purity in thought and action is recommended; refrain from hypocrisy.
- Consider Ram as your friend, guide and master, and surrender to him wholeheartedly. (HandWiki)

On Spiritual Life and God:

Some of his most luminous sayings include: "Nama is synonymous with God." "The Sadhaka has reached the end of his Sadhana when all doubts melt, distractions disappear and his mind is filled to the brim by the Name of God." "Bhakti means an awareness of the presence of God." "Self-surrender is that state of mind in which God alone is our strength." "There is no better puja and ritual in Hindu religion than feeding a hungry living being." (Shrikshetra-hebballi)

On Householder Life:

Maharaj taught that family life is not incompatible with the attainment of ultimate peace. One does not have to be a sage living outside social bounds. It is how one leads one's life that determines the self. The key to ultimate peace is in the regularity of prayers to Rama without expecting anything in return. (Blogger)

Philosophical Basis:

Shri Maharaj interpreted the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta in his discourses, introducing those principles in practical language that ordinary people could understand. (Shrikshetra-hebballi)

The essence of Shri Maharaj's teaching is that one should never fail in selfless duty in worldly dealings, and maintain the moral code — desist from casting aspersions on others, coveting others' possessions, and looking on another's wife or possessions evilly. (Shrikshetra-hebballi)

🛕 HIS TEMPLE AND ASHRAM (GONDAVALE SANSTHAN)

During his later years, Brahmachaitanya had a Rama temple built as an extension to his residence. With time, the number of his disciples and followers soared. To cater to these increasing numbers, he arranged for the construction of Rama, Dattatreya, and Shani temples along with accommodation facilities at Gondavale. He also had Rama temples built in other rural regions of Maharashtra. (Wikipedia)

After his death, Brahmanand Swami — Brahmachaitanya's closest disciple — established a trust per his Guru's wishes, called Chaitanyaopasana Shri Gondavalekar Maharaj Trust. The trust built Brahmachaitanya's Samadhi (shrine) with his symbolic slippers (Paduka). The Samadhi forms the center for all rituals, activities and celebrations, also known as Gondavale Sansthan. (Bharatpedia)

There are also temples dedicated to Brahmachaitanya in Bangalore (Srinivasanagar) and Hebbali in Dharwad district, where the Ram Naam Japa ritual is held on a daily basis. (HandWiki)

🌸 HIS MAIN DISCIPLES

Amongst those who attained remarkable heights in spirituality under Maharaj's guidance:

Shri Anandsagar, Shri Brahmanand, Shri Bhausaheb Ketkar, Shri Tatyasaheb Ketkar, Shri Kurtakoti and Shri Ramanand. (Shrigondavalekarmaharaj)

Shri Brahmanand Swami — A famous learned Shastri from Karnataka. He did great penance in Venkatapur and prayed to the Lord to give him a Guru. The Lord told him to go to Indore. Accordingly, he travelled to Indore and met Shri Maharaj there. After attaining self-realisation through Namasmaran on the banks of the Narmada river, Shri Maharaj deputed him to spread the Divine Name in Karnataka. (Shrikshetra-hebballi)

Shri Anandsagar — The eldest disciple of Shri Maharaj. He met Shri Maharaj in Indore. When he was reading the Dasbodha, Shri Maharaj suddenly appeared before him and said "Come and see me." He met Shri Maharaj two days later and was initiated by Him. (Shrikshetra-hebballi)

Prof. K. V. Belsare (Poojya Baba) — Born in Hyderabad in 1909, he mastered the scriptures — the Bhagavad Gita, Dasbodh and Dnyaneshwari — at an early age, and is believed to have memorized all 700 shlokas of the Bhagavad Gita in one week. He later became a professor of philosophy at Siddhartha College in Mumbai. He was initiated in 1931, and on Brahmachaitanya's orders, became the cornerstone of propagating Maharaj's teachings to a vast population over 60 years through many discourses and writings. (HandWiki)

Dr. Kurtakoti — He met Shri Maharaj early in life and served him for about nine years as no other disciple could do. Shri Maharaj called him Mahabhagvat. Later, he graduated from Oriental University in the United States with a Ph.D. degree and, on the advice of Lokamanya Tilak, became the Shankaracharya of Karveer and Sankeshwar Peetha. (Shrikshetra-hebballi)

D. R. Bendre — D. R. Bendre (1896–1981) was a renowned Kannada poet and Jnanpith Award winner. He credited Brahmachaitanya for blessing him with the divine gift of poetry, which shaped his spiritual and literary journey. (Shreerajyog)

✨ MIRACLES

The Weeping Rama Idol — The Most Famous Miracle:

Shri Maharaj loved the installed idols of Shriram at Gondavale so intensely that when, at the age of about 50, he started to leave Gondavale and go to Naimisharanya, tears actually appeared in the eyes of the idols. (Internet Archive) This divine sign — of Rama Himself weeping at the prospect of his beloved devotee's departure — overwhelmed Maharaj and he gave up his plan to leave. This miracle is among the most beloved and oft-quoted events in his life.

Apparitions and Visions: Sri Ganjoor Venkannaiah, who was in Malligere near Chikkanayakanahalli in Mysore supervising a tank construction, got a vision of Sri Maharaj who ordered him in Marathi: "Come to Gondavale." Though he did not understand what was said, he made a note in his diary. Miraculously within a few days, he came to know that Gondavale is a village near Koregaon, Maharashtra. He went there and met the same saint who had appeared to him in the vision. (Blogger)

He understood the mind of every person and spoke to him with that understanding. Shri Maharaj believed that rather than one person reaching perfection, it is better that a large number makes at least some growth. He never shunned anyone. (Quora) His very presence was considered a transformative miracle by thousands.

WRITTEN WORKS & PRAVACHANE (DISCOURSES)

His daily discourses have been compiled into a book called Pravachane. He frequently used pravachan (spiritual discourses) and bhajan (devotional hymns) to encourage people along the path of devotion. (Wikipedia)

The Discourses (Pravachane) of Shri Brahmachaitanya Maharaj Gondavalekar were compiled by G. S. Gokhale and B. V. Belsare. (Internet Archive) The book contains discourses for each day of the calendar year, discourses on special occasions such as Ram Navami, Ramdas Navami and Guru Pournima, as well as a glossary of Sanskrit spiritual terms.

K. V. Belsare (Poojya Baba) authored over 50 Marathi books, including Bhavarthgatha and Upanishdacha Abhyas, as well as a full biography of Brahmachaitanya, making complex spiritual wisdom accessible to all. (Shreerajyog)

The biography "Shri Ram — The Saint of Gondawali: The Life and Sayings of Shri Brahmachaitanya" by K. V. Belsare is available freely on the Internet Archive and remains the definitive English work on Maharaj.

🌅 FINAL DAYS & TAKING SAMADHI

Sri Maharaj felt the time had come for him to leave his body. He told his ever-surrounding devotees to do Ramnam. He had constructed many Rama Mandirs all over the country and Gondavale had become a pilgrim center. The visiting pilgrims took to Ramnam and felt solace. **On Monday, 22nd December 1913, at 5.50 a.m., Sri Maharaj took a deep breath, closed his eyes, uttered "Sri Ram" and went into Samadhi. And that was the last of him in this body.** The surrounding devotees wept like children. The spiritual Sun of Gondavale had set — but only to spread his light all over the world for generations to come. (Blogger)

🏛️ LEGACY

He is an important 19th-century religious figure behind the revival of Vedic ritualism in the Indian state of Maharashtra. (Wikipedia) One of the features of the Maharashtrian bhakti tradition exemplified by Maharaj is how many saints continued to live the life of a householder even after God-realization — Sant Jnaneshwar, Sant Tukaram, Sant Namdev were all married, as was Nisargadatta Maharaj in modern times, and so was Gondavalekar Maharaj. (Hindu American Foundation)

Devotional films have also portrayed Maharaj's life, including the 2015 Marathi production Brahmachaitanya — Gondavle Maharaj and the 2018 Hindi bhakti film Brahmachaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj Ki Kahani, which dramatize his spiritual journey and teachings for audiences. (Grokipedia)

🕌 PRESENT STATE OF ASHRAM & DAILY ROUTINES

Samadhi of Shri Maharaj is the epicenter of all rituals, activities and celebrations in Gondavale Sansthan. Japam of the Divine Name (Naamsmaran), Worship of the Image (Sagunopasana), and Feeding people without discrimination (Annadan) form the essence of worship at Gondavale. (Shrigondavalekarmaharaj)

Annually, the Sansthan undertakes a collective resolution to complete 13 crore Japas of Ram Naam, involving contributions from sadhakas and visitors throughout the year. Key festivals include Punyatithi on December 22, commemorating Maharaj's Mahasamadhi in 1913, which features utsav celebrations extending several days with aartis, processions, and mass satsangs; Gurupournima, honoring the guru-disciple tradition; and Shrikrishna Janmashtami. (Grokipedia)

Even today, all activities and rituals are in line with the principles and guidelines set by Shri Brahmanand. Sincere prayers by seekers, uttering the Divine Name, do not go unanswered. (Shrigondavalekarmaharaj)

🔆 A FINAL REFLECTION

Shri Brahmachaitanya Gondavalekar Maharaj stands as a towering beacon of the Bhakti tradition — remarkable not only for his God-realization but for his compassionate insistence that every ordinary person, in the midst of household life, can attain divine peace. His message remains eternally fresh:

"Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram — chant the Name, and all will be well."

🙏 **Jai Shri Ram**!

**””

YouTube Videos

Films about Maharaj, Bhajans, Aarti, Pravachans etc

Films about Sri Gondavalekar Maharaj:

Bhakti film: https://youtu.be/QU9bUAXip6c

Brahmachaitanya-Marathi movie: https://youtu.be/a4OUT1tN_do

Gondavale darshan: https://youtu.be/1hVul87Ki2g

Bhajans, Aarti, Pravachans etc:

Bhajan: https://youtu.be/xK8senyIwz4

Bhajan: https://youtu.be/u03AAu-zSFw

Documentary by Doordarshan: https://youtu.be/NQ45NRNBM_U

Gondavalekar charitra: https://youtu.be/xWPhv2mJLSM

Bhajan: https://youtu.be/Q47M4BDXlG4

Gondavalekar Maharaj Aarti: https://youtu.be/bcLXHXX-cPE

Punyatithi 2018: https://youtu.be/w0JbeOXHRWo

Punyatithi 2017: https://youtu.be/hqz9-2cPJKY

Kothi Pooja 2018: https://youtu.be/c0L5x2XIj9k

Punyatithi 2021: https://youtu.be/1uOGQNpPBok

Samadhi pooja: https://youtu.be/opVwPpmOxro

Punyatithi 2015: https://youtu.be/UHwBUj1WW10

Kothi poojan 2013: https://youtu.be/KT4IB3Xqkgk

Pravachan: https://youtu.be/asL3HL66I1A

Pravachan: https://youtu.be/OvPZWEpherw

Pravachan: https://youtu.be/gqr4FP0BQXM

Subodh: https://youtu.be/72dJW7qm130

Bhajans by Rahul Deshpande: https://youtu.be/--Uyvy5WThk

Brahmachaitanya bhavaganga: https://youtu.be/tcD2B8cMDSE

Ram dayaghana: https://youtu.be/AsJcdBnSqtI

Sri Ram Path: https://youtu.be/KouzJ0MgGT8

Bhajan: https://youtu.be/uC-du4eqBLs

Bhajan: https://youtu.be/HVC1YT-pEt8

Bhajan: https://youtu.be/39L-OCiKGnk

Samadhi pooja: https://youtu.be/Ydmj13lLJy8

Aarti: https://youtu.be/FAmfeyJQxe4

Hanuman shlokas, bhajans, Sri Ram stuti etc:

Anjaneya Swamy shloka by Sri sisters: https://youtu.be/qLqBtO57hy0

Sri Hanuman shloka: https://youtu.be/qLqBtO57hy0

Pavamana:Sheshagiri das: https://youtu.be/6QLoQS2ljK8

Morning Hanuman bhajans: https://youtu.be/kBSK3Hu8Fy8

Hanuman jayanti bhajans: Hariharan, Lata Mangeshkar etc:

https://youtu.be/ASb9b3pHglU

Hanuman chalisa: MS Subbulakshmi: https://youtu.be/r3DC3PjUTbc

Hanuman chalisa: Gulshan Kumar, Hariharan: https://youtu.be/AETFvQonfV8

Hanuman bhajan by Dr. Vidyabhushan: https://youtu.be/J52TTXUqbmQ

Hanuman bhajans: Art of Living: https://youtu.be/WJUkIMrJGVM

Sankat mochan Hanuman Ashtak: Hari Om sharan: https://youtu.be/1zS2sgVEjvs

Hanuman chalisa: Pt. Jasraj and Shankar Mahadevan:

https://youtu.be/EfEy_PHxkPs

Hanuman Chalisa: Hariharan: https://youtu.be/XQjcHAVbljM

Hanuman bhajans-Hariharan: https://youtu.be/UzdLbpQ-enM

Hanuman chalisa and bhajans- Lata Mangeshkar: https://youtu.be/wyh6KbRV9FE

Anjaneya dandakam : Raghava Ramanuja: https://youtu.be/CROMR1NyZ3M

Anjaneya Pancharatnam: https://youtu.be/osjSaJysruw

Hanumadashtakam: SP Balasubramanyam: https://youtu.be/HBL9QHG-fKc

Hanumadashtakam: P B Srinivas: https://youtu.be/HukdVz_IWr0

Anjaneya stuti: S P Balasubramanyam: https://youtu.be/-WSHW3A9LG4

Hanuman sahasranamam: https://youtu.be/eatAl5kfBFg

Anjaneya Ashtottara shata namavali: https://youtu.be/7no226t6wpo

Ashtottara shata stotram: Puttur Narsimha Nayak: https://youtu.be/fILgFUVDxp4

Ramayana Jaya mantram: https://youtu.be/Lg0iinZAtMw

Ramayana Jaya mantram: https://youtu.be/IiLTfih-vKI

Hanuman sahasranamam and stotras: https://youtu.be/zhlyHRM_g34

Youtube link to chanting of Sri Rama Ashtakam:

By Sooryagayathri and Kuldeep M Pai:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6T5U7ewezU

By Krishnasoul:

https://youtu.be/410Jen0QVfk

Youtube link to chanting Sri Ram stuti by Lata Mangeskar:

https://youtu.be/YBt0zQ1eZf8

Namaramayanam chanting by M. S. Subbulakshmi:

https://youtu.be/tbcfzCMb86E

Download Ramcharita manas (Tulasidas) by Gita Press:

https://archive.org/details/GitaPress790

Download Valmiki Ramayanam (English) from TTD, Thirupathy:

https://ebooks.tirumala.org/read?id=20&title=Valmiki%20Ramayanam

When Lord Ram and Hanuman gave darshan to Tulasidas: Talk by Sri Sathya Sai Baba:

https://www.facebook.com/SathyaSaiWithStudents/videos/812029159749759/?app=fbl

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Note: At the end of this ebook, two pages are included, giving (I) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

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About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore,as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

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All his ebooks are available for free download at Archive.org.

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
May 11, 2026

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